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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

We need more competition in the broadband space. I live in a rural area that has been stuck with AT&T DSL as our only real broadband option since 2005. Today AT&T refuses to provision new DSL circuits in our area. I was fortunate enough to get my DSL line connected through Sonic.net using an AT&T circuit, but that option is also no longer available. Sonic.net provides much better support and service, as well as better throughput over the same circuits than AT&T provides. I have confirmed this with my neighbors. AT&T as an ISP provides mediocre service at best, and refuses to upgrade or maintain their lines in my area. Other "competitors" such as Comcast refuse to provide service outside of the densest population areas. This should leave the door open to competition, but the lack of level playing field makes that unlikely.

Please do whatever possible to increase competition among broadband providers. This does ***NOT*** mean removing regulation and net neutrality, as those are necessary to protect consumers in a monopolistic market such as the one we have now.

A local ISP in my area has been attempting to roll out fiber, but has run into countless setbacks and speed bumps put in place by other providers. They have been in dispute with Comcast for some time now over accurate coverage areas maps.

As an IT professional working out of my home, my 6mbit DSL is nearly unusable. In many instances, I must travel to another location to find faster internet so that I can perform my job duties. We cannot enjoy streaming services such as Netflix or even Youtube in my home. With a family of 5, it can be challenging for my kids to even perform their homework, as many teachers prescribe video lectures that they must watch.

It seems as if the FCC is turning a blind eye to the problem and accepting the lies and deceit that large U.S. ISPs are feeding via their lobbying groups. I have little hope for the internet future where I reside, as it seems to only be taking backward steps in the last decade.

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